

REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated September 2, 2003, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

According to the Notice of Non-Compliant, the Amendment filed on August 22, 2003 was considered non-compliant because it failed to meet the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, as amended on June 30, 2003. Applicants respectfully submit the amendments made herein to place the Amendment in compliance with US patent practice.

The Abstract was objected to because it exceeded the maximum of 150 words. Applicants respectfully present marked up replacement paragraph for the Abstract on a separate page for consideration. It is submitted that the marked up replacement paragraph for the Abstract does not exceed 150 words, and therefore is in compliance with U.S. patent practice.

In addition, the Specification has been amended. Applicants submit a marked-up replacement paragraph for consideration.

Moreover, the following is a re-submission of the Amendment filed on August 22, 2003, in its entirety.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-4 of the present application.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. New claims 5-8 have been added. Figures 2 and 3 have also been amended. Applicants submit that the new claims as well as the amendments made herein are fully supported in the specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-8 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Figures 2 and 3 were objected to because they were not designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. Applicants respectfully present herewith replacement Figures 2 and 3 which include the desired changes, without markings, and which comply with §1.84.

Figures 2 and 3 have been amended to include the legend of --Prior Art--. Applicants respectfully request consideration of amended Figures 2 and 3.

Claims 1 and 4 were objected as containing some informalities. In addition, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to overcome the informalities and to more clearly recite the subject matter of the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is submit that the amendments made herein overcome the objection as well as the rejection to the claims, and therefore Applicants respectfully request that the object and the rejection to the claims be withdrawn.

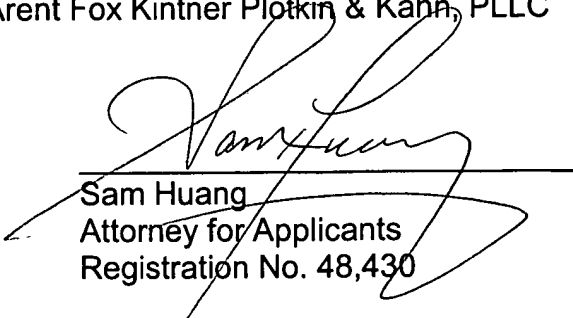
Claims 1-4 are allowable. As mentioned above, new claims 5-8 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that each of new claims 5-8 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicants also submit that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claims non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and therefore respectfully request that claims 5-8 be found allowable as well, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 108066-00018**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Replacement Figures 2 and 3